



Natural Areas  
& Parks Department  
360 SW Avery Avenue  
Corvallis, Oregon 97333

Phone: 541.766.6821  
FAX: 541.766.6891

## BENTON COUNTY NATURAL AREAS & PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

### MINUTES

July 10, 2019

**Avery Day Room**  
**360 SW Avery Ave., Corvallis**  
**7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

Committee Members Present: Jackie Hastings, Phillip Hays, Suzanne Lazaro,  
Travis Obermire, Dan Rosenberg, Janine Salwasser, and  
David Smith, Ellen Tappon

County Staff Present: Laurie Starha, Natural Areas & Parks Director; Adam Stebbins,  
Natural Resources Coordinator; and Kathy Goss, Recorder

#### I. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND NEW MEMBERS

#### II. BUSINESS

- A. **Approval of June Meeting Minutes:** Ellen Tappon moved to accept the minutes and David Smith seconded the Motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. **Update on Boards & Committees:** Laurie handed out a copy of the draft bylaws.
- Changes include members must reside or work in Benton County and members may not serve more than two successive terms.
  - Article 4 states "The Chair may not initiate a motion, but may second and shall vote on each issue after the question is called." It was mentioned the Chair usually doesn't vote unless to break a tie; so this appears backwards. **Action Item: Laurie will check with Vance.**
  - A question was raised about student interns and their ability to vote.
  - Officers will be elected at the regular July meeting.
  - Since Jay Sexton resigned, there is one position available. **Action Item: Laurie will forward the link for the application.**
  - A recommendation was made for members to review the bylaws and provide any comments at a later time.
  - **Action Item: Laurie will draft and send a copy of a "purpose statement" for this Committee to review, comment and make changes.**

- C. **Bellfountain BBQ - August 17<sup>th</sup>:** Adam Stebbins said the Parks Maintenance staff and Health Dept. will work out the logistics. A mailing list for residents around the park will be sent out. Flyers will be put up and the Health Dept. will be inviting individuals. The Commissioners and Joe Kerby, County Administrator will be there. Rick Hohnbaum, the City Administrator from Monroe will also be invited.
- The purpose of the BBQ is to talk about the features of the park including the completion of the new shelter, the ADA ramp, the walkway to the restrooms and to get feedback of what the community wants for the future.
  - Future improvements include harvesting some of the old large trees in the fall of 2020. Staff is concerned about the swing set which is currently under some large trees. If a big wind comes, branches may come down in that area.
  - A Capital Improvement Project (CIP) has been approved for the playground area which will be done in the spring of 2021. In the past, there was an interest in a natural playground such as rocks and logs, but because it is in a rural area, the community may want a more traditional play area with slides, etc.
  - Ellen said AFRANA has a potential donor who would like to set up a challenge.
  - Are there any musicians available to play that day? There could be a resurrection of the Bellfountain Blues Band. Mary Simpson organized the band; maybe she would do it again. Jackie said The Old Time Fiddlers are active in Polk County.  
**Action Item: Jackie will check to see if they are still active in Benton County.**
- D. **Park Tour - August 17<sup>th</sup>:** The tour will include Saxton, Irish Bend, Anderson, Bailey Branch and Bellfountain. The tour will start from the office at 8:30 am on a bus. Lunch will be at Bellfountain Park at noon and return to the office by 2:30 pm. Saxton Park was the first park donated to Benton County. There is nothing there except a gate, and during the winter, it is under water.
- E. **North Albany Friends Group Pilot Project Update:** Adam had a kick-off meeting with 22 people attending during the lunchtime meeting. He shared the results from the survey, dispelled some rumors about getting rid of unleashed dogs walking in the park and putting up a dog fence. There was a lot of appreciation for the efforts that have already been done.
- Adam discussed having a lead contact person who would work with him and the advisory board for consistent communication with other interested members. It could include volunteer efforts to pick up trash, dog waste, cutting and piling ivy, information for the kiosk, etc. A get together once a quarter could be arranged and perhaps a clean-up party twice a year. Someone stepped forward to be the leader of the group.
  - Because it is a pilot program, it was recommended to have a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Ellen said AFRANA is available to help facilitate the community group if they need guidance. The group could put together some ideas that would qualify for a grant and be part of fund raising efforts.

**F. Miscellaneous & Park Project Updates:**

- **Jackson Frazier:** Adam gave an update of the work being done with the wetland enhancement project. They have decreased the reed canary grass and other invasive vegetation in the wetland prairie area and boardwalk. Mowing has been done, and are on track to disk this year. USDF&W will do that with their 25 ft. disk and roller which will take out the ruts and furrows, and roll it out smooth. Scheduled for next year is mowing, taking out the berm, spraying, spot burning and re-seeding.
- **Mitigation at Willamette Housing:** There are lots of wetlands in the area. There is a 10 acre area in addition to what is currently available. It would be an endowment for Jackson Frazier. The Commissioners have approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and will be moving forward with their process with the Army Corp of Engineers, etc.
- **North Albany Natural Area Loop Trail:** It has been completed. An Eagle Scout wants to do a kiosk. However, if he doesn't do it, staff will.
- **2021 Plans:**
  - **Fitton Green Emergency Access Route:** Will happen this fall before the rain comes. Joggers don't like gravel so it would be nice to have a bare area on the sides of the road. **Action Item: Laurie will talk to the Roads Dept. to make sure it is a single lane with shoulders on each side.**
  - **Adair Park Hard Pavement Preservation:** Missed the opportunity to do it this year, but will do it next year with a chip seal.
  - **Capital Improvement Projects (CIP):** Three of them will require consultants.

**G. Other - Website discussion:** Adam said he has an alphabetized list of organizations that can be linked. Janine said she would take the list and create links. Laurie mentioned the County will be updating their website in the next year or so.

**H. August Meeting:** There will NOT be a meeting next month because of the Parks Tour on August 17<sup>th</sup>.

**III. MEETING ADJOURNMENT: 8:37 pm**

**Please visit us at: <http://www.co.benton.or.us/parks/>**